

Message Text

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11

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 AID-20 /116 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 668

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MX

SUBJ: COLUMNIST RENEWS ATTACK ON U.S. AMBASSADOR, CRITICIZES
MEXICAN LEGISLATOR

REF: A. MEXICO 9576, DEC. 21, 1973

B. MEXICO 2238

1. GASTON GARCIA CANTU, OCCASIONAL COLUMNIST FOR EXCELSIOR AND ASSOCIATED WITH POPULAR SOCIALIST PARTY, RENEWED HIS ATTACK (SEE REFTEL A) ON AMBASSADOR JOVA TODAY AND AT THE SAME TIME SHARPLY CRITICIZED CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES LEADER CARLOS SANORES PEREZ. HIS ATTACK WAS APPARENTLY TRIGGERED BY PRESS REPORTS OF THE CALL THE AMBASSADOR MADE ON LEGISLATIVE LEADERS ON MARCH 13 (REFTEL B).

2. GARCIA'S PRINCIPAL THEME IS THAT U.S. DIPLOMATS MAY HAVE CHANGED THEIR STYLE IN RECENT YEARS, ABANDONING THE TECHNIQUES OF DOLLAR DIPLOMACY AND RELYING HEAVILY ON FRIENDLY PERSONAL RELATIONS WITH HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, BUT, IN GARCIA'S VIEW, YIELDING NO GROUND IN MAINTAINING DEPENDENCY UPON THE U.S.

3. RETURNING TO THE INNUENDOES OF HIS EARLIER DIATRIBE REPORTED IN REFTEL A, GARCIA CANTU INSISTS THAT ALL U.S. AMBASSADORS

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APPOINTED DURING THE PAST YEAR ARE "MORALLY REPRESENTATIVES

OF WATERGATE". THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION, GARCIA ASSERTS, IS ON TRIAL AND THEREFORE IT IS NOW MORE THAN EVER NECESSARY TO TREAT U.S. AMBASSADORS WITH STRICT RESERVE.

4. QUOTING MEXICAN CONGRESSIONAL LEADER SANORES, WHO EXPRESSED HIS PEASURE AT THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH AMBASSADOR JOVA ON MARCH 13 MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST TO THE TWO COUNTRIES AND WHO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE AMBASSADOR'S VISIT TO THE CONGRESS WOULD MARK A NEW STATE IN MEXICAN-U.S. RELATIONS, GARCIA CANTU SHARPLY CRITICIZES SANORES. HOW, HE ASKS, COULD U.S. DIPLOMACY IN MEXICO CHANGE IF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PERMANENT COMMISSION OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES SPEAKS SUCH NONSENSE? HE EQUATES SUCH AN ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF A MEXICAN OFFICIAL WITH "COLLABORATING WITH THE U.S."

5. COMMENT: GARCIA CANTU, WHO IN HIS EARLIER ARTICLE CHARACTERIZED AMBASSADOR JOVA AS "AN EMISSARY OF NORTH AMERICAN FASCISM", IS UNLIKELY TO INFLUENCE THE OPINION OF MANY MEXICANS. HE WAS CLEARLY STUNG BY THE WARM RECEPTION GIVEN THE AMBASSADOR NOT ONLY BY SANORES BUT THE LARGE ACCOMPANYING GROUP OF CONGRESSMEN AND THE HIGHLY FAVORABLE COVERAGE GIVEN TO THE MEETING IN THE PRESS.
JOVA

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